

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 28 through 32, 36 through 39, 41 through 45, and 47 remain pending in the application. Claims 28 through 32, 36, 41, 42, 45, and 47 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 23 and 42 remain the only independent claims pending in the application.

Claim Objection

Claims 28 through 32, 36 through 39, 41 through 45, and 47 are objected to for the reasons succinctly set forth by the Examiner. The claims have been amended to address the grounds of the objection. Specifically, Claims 28 and 42 have been amended *inter alia* to recite that control function is performed on the basis of a density of a toner patch image. It is respectfully submitted that the objection has been overcome.

Section 102 Rejection

Claims 28, 36, 37, 39/37/28, 41, 42, 44/42/41, 45, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by previously-cited and -applied Kodama, et al.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 38, 39/38/37/28, 43, and 44/43/42/41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodama, et al. in view of previously-cited and -applied Hattori, et al.

Claims 28 through 32, 36, 37, 39/37/28, 41, 42, 44/42/41, 45, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over previously-cited and -applied Kasahara, et al. in view of Kodama, et al.

Claims 38, 39/38/37/28, 43, and 44/43/42/41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasahara, et al. in view of Kodama, et al. and further in view of Hattori, et al.

The rationale underlying each of the foregoing rejections is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Rejections

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 28 calls for an image forming apparatus that includes an image bearing member; an image forming means forms a toner image on the image bearing member; a transfer medium onto which a toner patch image for density detection is transferred; a density detecting means detects a density of a toner patch image on the transfer medium; and an image forming condition control means controls an image forming condition by the image forming means in accordance with an output of the density detection means. A transfer intensity, upon transfer of the toner path image onto the transfer medium, is changeable in accordance with a density of the toner path image.

Since the transfer intensity is chargeable in accordance with the density of the toner patch image, proper density control is possible.

Kodama, et al. discloses an image forming apparatus, wherein toner patterns P1-P17 are transferred while transfer current is increased from 0 to 800 microamperes from the top of a paper to an end of the paper. See Figure 12. The actual densities of each

pattern P1-P17 is compared with a counterpart toner density. See column 9, lines 43 through 47. In Kodama, et al., transfer efficiency is determined. See column 10, lines 27 through 31. However, Applicants submit that Kodama, et al. does not disclose or suggest that the transfer intensity, upon transfer of the toner patch image, is then changeable in accordance with a density *per se* of the toner patch image.

Kasahara, et al. and Hattori, et al. are merely cited for allegedly disclosing other salient features recited in certain dependent claims. However, it is respectfully submitted that none of the other references discloses or suggests the foregoing feature of the invention recited in amended independent Claims 28 and 42.

A feature of the invention defined in amended independent Claim 42 is that the transfer intensity, upon transfer of the toner patch image onto the transfer medium, is changeable in accordance with an output of an ambient condition detecting means. This feature accomplishes proper density control patch regardless of the ambient conditions.

It is respectfully submitted that Kodama, et al., Kasahara, et al., and Hattori, et al. whether taken individually or in combination fail to disclose or suggest an image forming apparatus, which changes the transfer intensity, upon transfer of the toner patch image onto the transfer medium, in accordance with an output of the ambient condition.

As set forth in the previous response, it is also respectfully submitted that the combination rejections are not well founded. If the Examiner maintains the combination rejections, she is kindly requested to show where in the cited art there is a basis for combining the art in the manner proposed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 28 and 42 are allowable over the cited art whether taken individually or in combination.

Dependent Claims

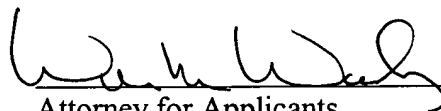
Claims 29 through 32, 36 through 39, 40, and 43 through 47 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 28 and 42 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the claims on file are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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